Non-functional X-Ray machines at airports

727. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the airport installations in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that X-ray machines installed at the airports are not functioning efficiently; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to further safeguard the vital aviation installation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Steps taken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to safeguard the airport installations in the country *inter-alia* include deployment of CISF at airports for providing better security, installation of Close Circuit TV Surveillance System and X-Ray machines at airports for screening of cabin and hand baggage of passengers and provision of both the Door Frame and Hand Held Metal Detectors for screening of persons entering airports.

(b) No, Sir. X-ray machines provided at airports are functioning satisfactorily. Faults, if any, are attended on priority to ensure trouble-free functioning of X-ray machines.

(c) Upgradation of Security is an ongoing process.

Development of infrastructure at airports

†728. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of airlines and aeroplanes presently operating in the country;

(b) how many passengers travel daily by air an average;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps in the direction of infrastructure development for the convenience of passengers in the airports keeping in view the revolution in air services; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The details of scheduled airlines presently operating in the country alongwith number of aeroplanes in their fleet are as under:—

(1) Air India Ltd.-37, (2) Air India Charters Ltd.-07, (3) Indian Airlines-58, (4) Alliance Air-15, (5) Jet Airways-55, (6) Sahara Airlines-29, (7) Deccan Aviation (P) Ltd.-33, (8) Kingfisher Airlines Ltd.-15, (9) Spicejet Ltd.-6, (10) Paramount Airways Private Ltd.-2, (11) Blue Dart Aviation Ltd. (Cargo)-7, (12) Go Airlines (India) Pvt. Ltd.-3.

(b) Total 123000 passengers travel daily by air on an average.

(c) and (d) Improvement of passenger facilities is a continuous process and AAI has taken up the expansion and modification of Terminal Buildings, construction of new terminal buildings, expansion of aircraft parking stands, construction of new aircraft parking stands, improvement of car park, approach road etc. to meet the requirement of increased volume of air traffic at various airports in the country. The International airports at Delhi and Mumbai have been restructured through private sector participation for its modernisation through ATC operations continue to remain with Airports Authority of India and and security with Government. Apart from this, AAI has decided to modernize 35 selected non-metro airports to world-class standards.

Shortage of engineers with airlines

729. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines have enough qualified engineers; and

(b) if not, whether Government are compromising with the questionable quality of aircraft maintenance procedures and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.